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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1060  
By Rinks

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Representative Shelby A. Rhinehart on his meritorious service as a member of the General Assembly.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this Body should recognize those fellow legislators who have performed their elected duties with remarkable dexterity and unprecedented devotion and whose efforts to excel have brought substantial benefits to their respective communities and to this great State; and

WHEREAS, Representative Shelby A. Rhinehart's illustrious career in the House of Representatives will come to an end at the adjournment sine die of the 2002 Session of the 102nd General Assembly, as he has announced his retirement from this august Body; and

WHEREAS, Representative Rhinehart has for many years been a prominent and highly influential figure in the political, social, and civic lives of his district, and he has served his constituents in numerous capacities, always working diligently at his elected duties and expending the necessary effort to understand the opposing sides of complex issues; and

WHEREAS, in 1958, the good people of the Cumberland Plateau and the Sequatchie Valley first evinced their great faith in the political and governmental capabilities of Shelby

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Rhinehart by electing him as their representative to the General Assembly, a position in which he has now performed admirably during a remarkable eighteen General Assemblies, sixteen of them served consecutively (87<sup>th</sup>-102<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly); and

WHEREAS, during his thirty-six years in the House of Representatives, Representative Rhinehart has been prominent as a dedicated and well-informed legislator who always votes his conscience; and

WHEREAS, Representative Rhinehart is a dynamic and aggressive participant in the legislative process and has earned the respect and admiration of his colleagues for his outstanding contributions and his service as a member of the Finance, Ways, and Means Committee, the Calendar and Rules Committee, the Select Oversight Committee on Education, the Select Oversight Committee on Corrections, the Joint Legislative Management Committee, and the Information Systems Council; he also formerly chaired the Budget Subcommittee of the Finance, Ways and Means Committee; and

WHEREAS, a leader among leaders, he serves as Vice-Chairman of the Council on Pensions and Insurance, Chairman of the Fiscal Review Committee, and Chairman of the Commerce Committee, a position he has held since 1989; and

WHEREAS, a tireless proponent of progress, he has been a champion for his constituents' needs, and his actions precipitated the superb network of roads that is enjoyed by the people of his district and indeed, all Tennesseans; and

WHEREAS, a gentleman who truly appreciates the responsibilities, as well as the privileges, of citizenship, Representative Rhinehart has served as a member of many community, civic, and professional organizations, including the Tennessee Pharmaceutical Association, Rho Chi, Kappa Psi, the Lions Club, the Free and Accepted Masons, the American Legion, and the Veterans of Foreign Wars; and

WHEREAS, a native of White County, Shelby Rhinehart attended Spencer Elementary School, Harrison Chilhowee Baptist Academy, and Van Buren High School, all in Spencer; he

graduated from Tennessee Polytechnic Institute and earned a Master of Science in Pharmacy from Howard College of Samford University; and

WHEREAS, this patriotic American nobly defended his country during both World War II and the Korean Conflict, attaining the rank of Corporal; when our nation most needed gallant individuals to protect our freedom and our way of life, Shelby Rhinehart answered the call of duty and thus holds an exalted position among the many brave men and women who have defended our nation against foreign aggression throughout American history; and

WHEREAS, after returning to his beloved Van Buren County, Mr. Rhinehart earned an unsurpassed reputation for civic concern and inspired leadership while gaining the respect and admiration of his employees and customers at Spencer Drug Company, which he established in 1956; and

WHEREAS, over the years, he has provided honorable and astute leadership to his city and county as Chairman of the Van Buren County Board of Education, a position he has held since 1956; Recorder for the City of Spencer from 1975-1986; and Mayor of Spencer from 1963-1975; he possesses a remarkably complete understanding of the workings of local government in Tennessee, which has allowed him to make invaluable contributions to this Body and the State as a whole; and

WHEREAS, a true master of parliamentary procedure, Representative Rhinehart has earned the title of "Chief Justice of the Legislature" in recognition of his unparalleled mastery of both the law and the legislative process; and

WHEREAS, his command of the subtleties of the English language and his immense knowledge of state government are legendary on Capitol Hill, and his astounding ability to use those skills to facilitate his vision for Tennessee is well-known throughout the state; and

WHEREAS, his many accomplishments aside, Shelby Rhinehart is most appreciative of the great love and companionship he has shared with his wife, the former Margaret Wrenn, since they were first joined in holy matrimony on September 20, 1952; together, they are the proud parents of James Barney Rhinehart and the late Archie Rhinehart; and

WHEREAS, Representative Rhinehart's announcement of his retirement from the General Assembly has greatly disappointed and disconcerted his fellow lawmakers, Democrats and Republicans alike, and his considerable talents and energies will be sorely missed by the good people of House District 37; and

WHEREAS, this Body finds it appropriate to bid farewell to our friend and colleague, Representative Shelby Rhinehart; now, therefore,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we hereby honor and commend Representative Shelby Rhinehart on 36 years of meritorious service to Tennessee as a member of the General Assembly.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we commend him for his countless contributions and many good works in service of the citizens of Bledsoe, Sequatchie, Van Buren, Grundy, Marion, and Warren Counties.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we extend to the Chief Justice our best wishes for much success and happiness in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation to Representative Rhinehart as a token of our esteem.